

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, paragraphs have been amended on page 4.

Claims 1, 7, 8, and 10 are currently being amended.

Claim 11 is being added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-11 are now pending in this application.

Claims 1, 7, 8 and 10 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to improve its readability and to further recite that the processor is for processing of the received input signals and the output signals. Claim 10 has been amended to improve its readability and to further recite processing both the input signals and the output signals by a processor of the memory tag. Claim 7 has been amended to improve its readability and to correct an informality. Claim 8 has been amended to change its dependency to only claim 1. Claims 1-10 are pending.

Abstract

The abstract was objected to as not being limited to a single paragraph. The specification has been amended to be a single paragraph, thus overcoming the objection thereto.

Priority Claim

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, GB patent application no. 0227152.6, which was submitted with applicant's claim for priority filed on October 31, 2003. A copy of applicant's claim for convention priority filed on October 31, 2003, along with the PTO date stamped post card acknowledging receipt of the claim and priority document cover sheet is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

Information disclosure statement

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's citation of FR 2670642 A2 on PTO Form 892, where FR 2670642 A2 was originally cited in the Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") filed on October 31, 2003. Applicants submit herewith another IDS submitting documents EP 0392731 A2 and WO 01/95242 A2, which were originally submitted with the IDS filed on October 31, 2003.

Specification

The disclosure was objected to on page 4, lines 5 and 21. The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner, thus overcoming the objection thereto.

Claim objections

Claim 7 was objected to for an informality. Claim 7 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner, thus overcoming the objection thereto.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-5 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,394,347 to Kitai ("Kitai"). Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,300,765 to Mizuta ("Mizuta"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 recites “a sensor for receipt of transmitted light carrying input signals” “a modulation circuit for overlay of output signals onto the power supply circuit” and “a processor for processing of the received input signals and the output signals.” Thus, in claim 1 the processor of the memory card processes both the received input signal, where the input signal is carried by light received by a sensor, as well as output signals, where the output signals are overlayed on the power supply circuit of the memory card. Kitai and Mizuta fail to disclose at least this combination of features in claim 1.

Kitai discloses in Figure 4, a hybrid card 100 (col. 5, lines 26-28). The hybrid card 100 comprises an optical recording region 103 and an IC memory region and an antenna coil 102 (col. 5, lines 26-28). Kitai further discloses that the “signal induced in the antenna coil 102 is taken into the IC memory region 101 that comprises a CPU, a memory and a power supply circuit” (col. 4, lines 29-32).

In contrast to claim 1, however, Kitai fails to disclose or suggest that its hybrid card 100 includes a processor that processes both the received input signal, where the input signal is carried by light received by a sensor, as well as output signals, where the output signals are overlayed on the power supply circuit of the memory card. Presuming for the sake of argument that the optical recording region 103 of Kitai could be considered to be a sensor, the optical recording region 103 is separate from and independent of the IC region 101 that comprises the power supply circuit and the CPU of the hybrid card. The information tracks 2 of the optical recording region 103 of the Kitai hybrid card would be accessed by some device external to the hybrid card (such as an optical reader), not by the CPU of the separate IC region 101. For at least this reason, Kitai fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1, and claim 1 is patentable thereover.

Independent method claim 10 recites “transmitting control and/or data signals to the memory tag using optical signals” and “processing both the input signals and the output signals by a processor of the memory tag.” By contrast, Kitai does not suggest that any optical input signals that may be recorded in its optical recording region 103 are processed by the CPU of its hybrid card for reasons analogous to those discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Mizuta was cited for allegedly disclosing a memory card with a built-in semiconductor memory element, but fails to cure the deficiencies of Kitai.

The dependent claims 2-9 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

New claim 11 recites "a sensor for receipt of transmitted light carrying input signals", "a modulation circuit for overlay of output signals onto the power supply circuit" and "a processor for processing of the received input signals." Thus, in claim 11 the processor processes received input signals, where the signals are carried by transmitted light received by the sensor. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, the optical recording region 103 of the Kitai hybrid card is separate from and independent of the IC region 101 that comprises the power supply circuit and the CPU of the card. Thus, the CPU does not process any signals that are carried by light received by the optical recording region 103. For at least this reason, Kitai also fails to disclose or suggest all the features of new claim 11, and claim 11 is patentable thereover.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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